



State Representative Greg Smith

House District 57

*Serving Union, Wallowa, Umatilla &
Morrow Counties*

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Smith Family Joins Kick-Off

(Heppner) "The Union County 12-Hour Relay is good ole' fashion community project and my family is honored to be a part of the kick-off," said State Representative Greg Smith (R-Heppner). Smith, his wife and children (ages 2 to 14), will attend the 7th annual relay on Saturday, September 24th at La Grande High School.

Sponsors describe this as a "community event that brings together people of all ages and abilities to participate in a unique and memorable experience." The relay supports efforts to fight drug and alcohol abuse. This year, methamphetamine is the focus.

Organizers hope to have 50 teams of 10 people each who will circle the school track relay-style, running or walking, for 12 hours. The relay starts at 10 am with a "community lap" which includes everyone, and ends at 10 pm with all those present for a "memory lap" in silence to reflect on the significance of the day.

"I encourage folks from all over Northeast Oregon to join this great program. We need to reach out to as many families as possible and get our young people engaged in a healthy drug free lifestyle," explained Representative Smith.

Smith pointed out, "the legislature set aside \$11 million dollars to combat problems created by the meth epidemic; not just crime but the collateral damage from toxic chemicals and serious health problems for children. We need more projects like this relay to increase awareness in the community and help our young people 'just say no to meth'."

Last year the relay raised around \$7,000 for the La Grande High School Auditorium, a middle school reading program, and the Community Youth Action Project among other deserving recipients. There is a family atmosphere at the relay with entertainment, fun activities for the kids, food booths, and much more. It is not too late to get involved. You can call Pam Dodds at 541-963-2523 or find out more at www.drugfreerelay.org or <http://www.eoni.com/~ucrelay/>.

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